

*Gallagher Thoroughbred Farm
19995 Highway 196
Arlington, TN 38002
901.526.0400
jpgthorse@comcast.net*

Federal Communications Commission
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

June 20, 2011

WT 11-65: In the Matter of applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for consent to assign or Transfer Control of licenses and Authorizations

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a farmer and commercial breeder of thoroughbred racehorses, I can tell you that there is much to celebrate in the rural lifestyle. But currently, the communications infrastructure is quite limited in rural or small communities. The result is that many people do not have access to high-speed wireless Internet service because of where they live. This lack of access can limit economic growth as well as educational and professional opportunities.

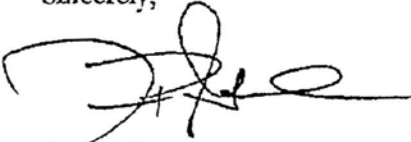
For the modern farmer or rancher, access to reliable, fast wireless broadband is an essential business tool. This technology allows farmers to use devices like laptops or smartphones to monitor pasture or crop conditions, research weather patterns or new equipment, sales, breeding and racing information and track markets and price information right from their offices—that is, from outside in their fields. With access to high-speed broadband, farmers and ranchers can even expand their businesses to include online sales. Successful management of a ranch or farm requires wireless technology, and that will be truer for the next generation of ranchers and farmers.

Right now, America ranks 25th in the world in average connection speeds—that's just behind Romania. In many small, rural, or underserved areas, those statistics are more discouraging. But the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile will result in a strengthened company that can expand and enhance the network and make broadband available to virtually the entire country, including many rural areas. The local economic growth and innovations that will result from access to advanced communications technology would help to improve quality of life here in Tennessee and in every state in the nation.

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I urge you to support this merger and the possibilities it will bring to my community and to others like it. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jim Gallagher', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Jim Gallagher
Attorney, Horse Trader, Rancher, Farmer
Gallagher Thoroughbred Horse Farm

CC:

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell